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MyReading Project

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# MyReading Project

Alison Sharman

Academic librarian at University of  
Huddersfield

# What is MyReading?

- Reading list software including:
  - Books, journals, video, web links
  - Real time book availability information
  - Direct links to electronic texts
  - Directed, annotated lists
  - Links to purchasing options

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# What is MyReading?



- Innovative software was developed in-house by a project group at the University of Huddersfield in consultation with academics and students

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# Overall Project Goal



**“Ensure the provision of reading lists is a managed, positive experience for students”**

## Teaching and Learning Committee agreed in June 2008

- *Reading Lists should be updated by academic staff on an annual basis with copies of all made available to library staff*
- *Librarians will promote current awareness to academic staff .....*
- *A reading list template will be adopted .....*

# The story in 2010...

- Library received lists for only 25% of modules
- Lists contained out of date or inaccurate information
- Manual processes for reading list management laborious and outdated
- Systematic, automated approach required

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# The library's answer



- Provide direct access to reading lists
- Enhanced access to full text online
- Provision of sufficient print copies within the library



# Principle of Least Effort

*aka “the path of least resistance”*

“...an information [seeker] will tend to use the **most convenient search method**, in the least exacting mode available. Information seeking behaviour stops as soon as **minimally acceptable results** are found.”

(Wikipedia, 2012)

# Principle of Least Effort

“Why will our students not get up and walk a hundred meters to access a key journal article in the library? ... the overwhelming propensity of most people is to invest as absolutely little effort into information seeking as they possibly can.”

(Bates, 2002)

# Principle of Least Effort

“...numerous studies have shown users are often willing to sacrifice information quality for accessibility. This fast food approach to information consumption drives librarians crazy. ‘Our information is healthier and tastes better too’ they shout.”

(Morville, 2005, p.51)

# Answers on a postcard, please...



“As early as 2004, in a focus group for one of my research studies, a college freshman bemoaned, ‘Why is Google so easy and the library so hard?’”

(Tenopir, 2009)

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**S. R. Ranganathan**

***“Five laws of library science” (1931)***



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- **Save the time of the reader (4<sup>th</sup> Law)**

# Our wish list...

- Easy to use front-end for students
- Academics maintain and update their own lists – library staff have got better things to do!
- Simple workflows for adding material from the OPAC and Summon
- Integrated approach with existing university platforms, e.g. Blackboard, Summon, OPAC and ASIS

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...and there's more!

- Automatic integration with library ordering processes
- Automatic updating of links to the OPAC, e.g. When we buy an e-book, any lists using a print edition have the e-book link added automatically
- Automatic updating of article links so that when we change subscriptions, links don't break
- A “social layer” that allows students to fully interact with their reading lists...

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– ratings, notes, comments, discussions, etc

Inspiring tomorrow's professionals

# Why build it “in house”?



Commercial offerings didn't have the deep integration into our other systems that we felt would be needed:

- Student Records

- Library Management System

- E-Resource products (Summon, 360 Link, etc)

- VLE

- Off-air TV recordings



# Why build it “in house”?

- Open Source systems (e.g. LORLS from Loughborough) had more potential for integration, but seemed to be primarily designed around traditional reading list materials

# Project Steering Group



- Chair: Pro-Vice Chancellor (Teaching and Learning)
- Head of Library Services.
- Head of Computing Services.
- Heads of Department
- Academics
- SU VP Education
- Academic Librarians
- Systems Manager
- Project Manager

# Technical team established



- Systems Manager
- Academic and Subject Librarians
- Acquisitions staff
- Librarian responsible for document delivery

# Timescales from Project Plan

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Sept 2010-Feb 2011

- Software development/ Strategy & policies to be devised and approved

March–April 2011

- Testing of software with one school
- Policies/ guidelines applied across university
- Marketing/Publicity launch

May-July 2011

Roll out across university

Populate with data by student team

Oct– Dec 2011

Evaluation/ Feedback/ Usage statistics

Jan-July 2012

Refinements to software/ Training for academics

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and.....

By August 2012  
System free-standing and sustainable!

- Academic consultation vital to success of project
  - Focus groups with academics and students
  - Online survey for collection and analysis of comments
  - Presentations in university departments
  - Project blog to collect feedback
  - Online voting system to prioritise developments

# Consultation with academics

- Support for multimedia content in lists
  - UniTube, YouTube, Vimeo, Flickr, SlideShare, podcasts, etc
- Widgets
  - allow reading list sections (or individual references) to be dropped into blog posts, VLE, etc
- Usage stats
  - do students borrow/access the items on the list?

# Consultation with academics

- Incorporate existing library work on generating reading recommendations
- Allow students to bookmark, comment, export and annotate individual items on the list
- Allow students to suggest other items that they think should be on the reading list



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# Integration with Blackboard



- MyReading went live in UniLearn at the start of the academic year
- MyReading button visible in every module noticeboard
- All reading lists submitted before July 2011 should be visible



- Logo designed
- Leaflets created
- Cards for induction wallets
- Posters

# Current stats

- **MyReading currently contains 35,632 references**
- **There are 2,330 active modules in the current academic year, 71% of which have references**
- **Since the system went live, 53,971 reading lists and 42,984 references have been viewed**
- **On a typical day by 09:52, 87 reading lists and 25 references will have been viewed**

# Empowers academics and stimulates creativity



- Organise their lists – mark items as essential, recommended etc.
- Hide sections
- Add notes to specific items
- Digitise popular book chapters
- Encourage students to rate items and send their tutor notes
- Add weblinks

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# Training provided



- Extensive training provided to academics/Learning Technologists
- [Online Screencasts](#)

# Latest developments

- Stats for monitoring stock levels:
  - calculate the % of time each item spends on loan
  - good indicator of demand
  - e.g. Giddens “Sociology”
- Other metrics available:
  - <http://library.hud.ac.uk/my/BMO0194>
- Reports
  - <http://library.hud.ac.uk/myreading>

# Coming soon!

- Redesigned interface (using HTML5 & CSS3)
  - better support for mobile devices
  - tidy up of the interface to remove clutter
- More work on the social aspects
  - threaded discussion
- Integration with Dawson
  - streamline the acquisitions workflow
  - check for latest editions, e-book availability,  
etc

## AHE3209: COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE





















Module Leader: [Cath Ellis](#)

This list was last updated on 30/May/2012

### 1 - Books

section options: [edit](#) | [↑ move ↓](#) | [copy](#) | [adaptive release](#) | [delete](#)


[collapse](#) | [top](#)

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|    | <i>book » recommended reading</i><br>Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G. and Tiffin, H. (2002) - <a href="#">The empire writes back : theory and practice in post-colonial literatures</a> (2nd ed)   | ★★★★★    |
|    | <i>book » recommended reading</i><br>Barker, F., Hulme, P. and Iversen, M. (1996) - <a href="#">Colonial discourse, postcolonial theory</a>   | ★★★★★    |
|    | <i>book » recommended reading</i><br>Boehmer, E. (2005) - <a href="#">Colonial and postcolonial literature : migrant metaphors</a> (2nd ed)   | ★★★★★    |
|    | <i>book » recommended reading</i><br>Mongia, R. (1996) - <a href="#">Contemporary postcolonial theory : a reader</a>  | ★★★★★    |
|    | <i>book » recommended reading</i><br>Moon, Jennifer A. (2006) - <a href="#">Learning journals : a handbook for reflective practice and professional development</a> (2nd ed)<br>• <i>This is an excellent guide to reflective writing which I strong recommend to all of you new to this mode of writing.</i>   | ★★★★★    |
|   | <i>book » recommended reading</i><br>Moore-Gilbert, B. J., Stanton, G. and Maley, W. (1997) - <a href="#">Postcolonial criticism</a>  | ★★★★★    |
|  | <i>book » recommended reading</i><br>Moore-Gilbert, B. J. (1997) - <a href="#">Postcolonial theory : contexts, practices, politics</a>  | ★★★★★  |
|  | <i>book » background reading</i><br>Moreton-Robinson, Aileen (2007) - <a href="#">Sovereign subjects : indigenous sovereignty matters</a>   | ★★★★★  |
|  | <i>book » background reading</i><br>Moreton-Robinson, Aileen (2000) - <a href="#">Talkin' up to the white woman : a aboriginal women and feminism</a>   | ★★★★★  |

### 2 - Task Two

section options: [edit](#) | [↑ move ↓](#) | [copy](#) | [adaptive release](#) | [delete](#)

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- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  | <i>journal article » recommended reading</i><br>Ramshad, Michael I - <a href="#">Does race exist?</a> in <i>Scientific American</i> (2003) | ★★★★★  |
|---|--|---|



# expanded reference

## POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

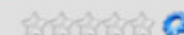
### 1 - Books

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book » recommended reading

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Boehmer, E. (2005) - [Colonial and postcolonial literature : migrant metaphors](#) (2nd ed)

details | discussion | edit | admin

#### Links:

- [Ebrary](#) (electronic book)
- [library catalogue](#)

#### Library holdings:

- [Bamsley](#): 4 copies (3 available now)

#### Bibliographic details:

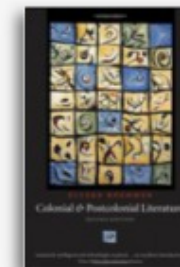
- 2nd edition, published in 2005 by Oxford University Press (Oxford)
- shelfmark: 809.09048 BOE
- ISBN: 9780199253715

#### Library Catalogue - all editions and related works:

- [Colonial and postcolonial literature migrant metaphors](#) (2nd ed, 2005) / Boehmer, Elleke [electronic book]
- [Colonial and postcolonial literature : migrant metaphors](#) (2nd ed, 2005) / Boehmer, Elleke
- [Colonial and postcolonial literature : migrant metaphors](#) (1995) / Boehmer, Elleke

#### Purchase options:

- [Amazon.co.uk](#) - £20.24 (paperback, 2nd ed., 2005)
- [AbeBooks UK](#) - from £13.16 [+P&P] (ISBN 9780199253715)
- [Blackwells](#) - £23.00 (paperback, ISBN 9780199253715)



book » recommended reading

Mongia, P. (1996) - [Contemporary postcolonial theory : a reader](#)

## AHE3209: COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

Module Leader: Cath Ellis

30/May/2012

section tabs

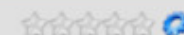
### 1 - BOOKS

section options: edit | ↑ move ↓ | copy | adaptive release | delete

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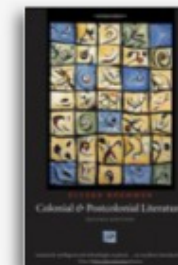
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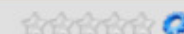
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## AHE3209: COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

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This list was last updated on 26 May 2012

## discussion topics

## 1 - BOOKS

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book » recommended reading

Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G. and Tiffin, H. (2002) - [The empire writes back : theory and practice in post-colonial literatures](#) (2nd ed)

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[start new topic](#)

page 1 of 5 »»

|  | topic  | replies | last reply             |
|--|--|---------|------------------------|
|  | <a href="#">In dignissim convallis nulla blandit accumsan</a><br>started by Ethan Parker on 27/Jun/2012                        | 3       | 11/Jun/2012<br>Rebecca |
|  | <a href="#">Suspendisse vehicula mauris sed quam laoreet sagittis</a><br>started by Peter Gromitt on 11/Jun/2012               | 7       | 27/Jun/2012<br>Jiten   |
|  | <a href="#">Donec imperdiet mollis faucibus</a><br>started by Mohammad Bhat on 15/Jun/2012                                     | 2       | 23/Jun/2012<br>Gail    |
|  | <a href="#">Proin sed rhoncus felis</a><br>started by Scott Cooper on 19/Jun/2012  | 5       | 19/Jun/2012<br>Stuart  |
|  | <a href="#">Nulla vehicula consequat nibh, at dictum magna ornare vitae</a><br>started by Emma Clark on 23/Jun/2012            | 1       | 16/Jun/2012<br>Deborah |
|  | <a href="#">Nulla vehicula consequat nibh, at dictum magna ornare vitae</a><br>started by Yu Hon on 27/Jun/2012                | 4       | 12/Jun/2012<br>Memory  |
|  | <a href="#">Sed risus nulla, ultricies ac sollicitudin non, dictum sit amet purus</a><br>started by Anne Smith on 11/Jun/2012  | 7       | 28/Jun/2012<br>Jakab   |
|  | <a href="#">Nam cursus convallis dui, sed scelerisque justo volutpat id</a><br>started by Thomas Kowalski on 15/Jun/2012       | 3       | 24/Jun/2012<br>Oliver  |
|  | <a href="#">Phasellus dignissim aliquam est, sit amet imperdiet sem pretium in</a><br>started by Mercer William on 19/Jun/2012 | 6       | 20/Jun/2012<br>Robert  |
|  | <a href="#">Nullam tincidunt accumsan metus, non lacinia leo vulputate vitae</a><br>started by Nathan Winch on 23/Jun/2012     | 1       | 16/Jun/2012<br>Emma    |

## AHE3209: COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL LITERATURE

Module Leader: Cath Ellis

This list was last updated on 20 May 2012

## editing options for staff

## 1 - BOOKS

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book » recommended reading

★★★★★

Ashcroft, B., Griffiths, G. and Tiffin, H. (2002) - [The empire writes back : theory and practice in post-colonial literatures](#) (2nd ed)

book » recommended reading

★★★★★

Barker, F., Hulme, P. and Iversen, M. (1996) - [Colonial discourse, postcolonial theory](#)

details | discussion | edit | admin

item type: BOOK (current) ▼

itemID# 9473 / listitemID #9225

**book title:** Colonial discourse, postcolonial theory

book author(s): Barker, F.; Hulme, P.; Iversen, M.



publication year: 1996



edition:



publisher name: Manchester University Press



publisher location: Manchester



book series:



ISBN 10: 0719048761



ISBN 13: 9780719048760

item URL: <http://library.hud.ac.uk/catlink/bib/249868/cb/>

library catalogue ID: 249868

update

fields in red are mandatory  
fields in green affect how the software displays the reference



book » recommended reading

★★★★★

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Moon, Jennifer A. (2006) - [Learning journals : a handbook for reflective practice and professional development](#) (2nd ed)

- *This is an excellent guide to reflective writing which I strong recommend to all of you new to this mode of writing.*  

*book » recommended reading*

Moore-Gilbert, B. J., Stanton, G. and Maley, W. (1997) - [Postcolonial criticism](#)

**same web page  
automatically  
optimises itself for  
mobile devices with  
narrower screens**

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## Finally, a quote from an academic...



- “Myreading has made the design of research informed teaching and learning so much easier and I have observed the student cohort engaging in wider reading because of the immediate access from Unilearn to library.”

Julie Drake, Department of Accountancy

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## More info



- Project Blog  
<http://library.hud.ac.uk/blogs/projects/myreading>

# References

- Bates, M. J. (2002) Toward an Integrated Model of Information Seeking & Searching. *New Review of Information Behaviour Research*, 3, 2002, 1-15.
- Morville, P. (2005) *Ambient Findability*. Sebastopol, CA: O'Reilly Media, Inc.
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- Tenopir, C. Visualize the Perfect Search, *Library Journal*, 2009



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- Wikipedia (2012) *Principle of least effort*.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle\\_of\\_least\\_effort](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Principle_of_least_effort)